GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2114
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
USAGE OF ATOMIC ENERGY
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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

:

(a) the plan of the Government to harness atomic energy for health, food, livelihood security and supply of drinking water during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (b) The XI Five Year Plan proposals of the Department of Atomic Energy include strategies to harness atomic energy for health, food, agriculture and supply of drinking water. These are summarized below:

1.HEALTH

Expansion of existing programmes and initiation of new programmes at Tata Memorial Centre through Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH) and Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC) on prevention, clinical management and basic clinical research in cancer.

Greater deployment of indigenous technologies and supply of radio- isotopes for medical diagnosis and treatment.

Additional plants for radiation sterilisation of medical products.

2.FOOD

In food technology, the emphasis would continue on the development of new products, processes and applications. This objective will be pursued coupled with the identification of appropriate packaging materials suitable for the newer applications.

Towards increasing public awareness and entrepreneur development, the emphasis on working in collaboration with Universities, NGOs and other institutions and organizations would continue.

3.AGRICULTURE

Work on mutation breeding for Biotic and Abiotic stresses and quality improvement in oil seeds and pulses and seed multiplication of BARC varieties will be carried out.

Development of Mutants/Genotypes with higher productivity, resistance to specific diseases, tolerance to Abiotic stresses and improved quality for enriching germ-plasm is envisaged.

4.DRINKING WATER

Advanced Membrane Development, Characterisation and Diagnostic Facility

Advanced Desalination Technology Studies

Seawater Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) plant at Vizag (2.0 million litres/day (mld) capacity)

Solar Driven Desalination Systems

Design, development and deployment of state of art desalination plants in rural areas

Experimental studies for recovery of valuable materials from reject brine stream